

Claim 23, Line 4, after “directions”, add - - towards said cable headend and said feeder line ends - -.

Claim 24, Line 1, after “claim”, delete “23”, and add - - 21 - -.

Claim 27, Line 1, after “claim”, delete “26”, and add - - 21 - -.  
Line 3, after “filter” delete - - and said tap - - .

Claim 29, Line 1, before “headend”, add - - cable - -.

Claim 30, Line 1, before “headend”, add - - cable - -.

Claim 31, Line 3, before “device”, add - - two-way communication - -.

Claim 38, Line 1, before “system”, delete - - cable - -.  
Line 1, after “claim”, delete “19” and add - - 9 --.  
Line 2, before “cable”, delete “said”, and add - a --.

Claim 40, Line 2, after “in”, delete “said”, and add - - a - - .

Claim 46, Line 2, after “via”, delete “bridger amplifier”, and add - - tap - -.  
Line 3, after “said” (first occurrence) delete “bridger amplifier”, and add - - tap --.

Claim 49, line 1, after “from”, delete “a bridger”, and add - - a tap - -.  
Line 2, before “in”, delete “amplifier”.  
Line 3, after “in”, delete “the”, and add - - a - - .

Cancel Claims 18, 19, 20, 26, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 51 and 52

## REMARKS

The specification is being amended to correct an obvious and inadvertent error and to bring the text into compliance with the figures.

The drawings are being corrected and submitted herewith as directed by the examiner.

The examiner has objected to claims 1, 3, 9–10, 13, 15, 22, 24, 27, 29–33 and 38 because of noted informalities. Applicant is amending the claims to correct these informalities.

The examiner has rejected claims 1–12, 17–18, 23–24, 26, 35–37, 40, 49 and 50 under 35 U.S.C 112 as being indefinite for lack of antecedent basis for some of the terms therein.

Applicant is amending the claims to overcome this rejection. Claims 18,19,26,33-37, and 42-45 are being cancelled herein to expedite the prosecution of the application.

The examiner also has rejected claims 13-17, 26-27, 35-36, 42-45 and 49-50 under 35 U.S.C 112 as failing to comply with the enabling requirement. Applicant is amending the claims herein to overcome this rejection also.

The examiner has rejected claims 18, 19,20 and 42 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Bodeep et al (EPO 695 092).

Applicant is canceling claims 18, 19 and 42-45 herein to expedite the prosecution of the application.

The examiner also has rejected claims 1-3, 7, 9-17, 20, 21-25, 28-33, 35 and 36 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicants admitted prior art in view of Bodeep of record.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Applicant respectfully submits that the Bodeep reference fails to show or suggest applicant's invention as claimed. Applicant's invention is based on the realization that cable feeder lines can be equipped at the ends thereof with a means for receiving, from any set top box connected to the feeder line, signals in a portion of the frequency band traditionally used only for downstream signals from a cable headend. Those signals are converted at the feeder line end to signals in a lower frequency band traditionally reserved for upstream signals from a set top box and returned along the feeder line to the cable trunk for transmission to the cable headend.

Applicant respectfully submits that Bodeep fails to even suggest anything useful for feeder lines for receiving "downstream" signals from set top boxes, converting those signals at the feeder line end to "upstream" signals for retransmission along the feeder lines to a cable trunk as claimed. Bodeep instead requires an additional cable and, in fact, cannot use the feeder

line without reintroducing the noise because of the absence of the required high pass filters disclosed by the applicant.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the Bodeep reference fails to show or even suggest the Invention as claimed in remaining claims 1-3, 7, 9-17, 21-25, 28 and 32 and this rejection should be withdrawn.

The examiner has rejected claims 43 and 44 over Bodeep and U.S. patent 5,864,672 under 35 U.S.C 103(a). Applicant is canceling these claims herein.

The examiner has rejected remaining claims 4 and 8, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Bodeep in view of Baran et al. (US Patent 6,094,211). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Since the Bodeep reference fails to even suggest retransmission of signals along a feeder line as claimed by the applicant and is incapable of so doing as explained above, the Baran reference fails to add anything to Bodeep to anticipate applicants claims.

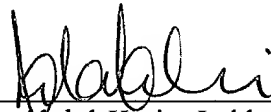
The examiner has rejected remaining claims 5,27,46, 47 and 49 as being unpatentable over applicants admitted Prior art in view of Bodeep & McAlear (US Pat. 6,598,232). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection also.

In view of the failure of the Bodeep reference to even suggest the retransmission along feeder lines as claimed by applicant, applicant respectfully submits that he is entitled to claims of this scope.

The examiner has rejected claims 34, 37 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Peyrovian (US Pat. 5,768,682) of record in view of Baran (of record). Applicant is canceling these claims as well all claims relating to set-top box herein to expedite the prosecution. This includes claims 51 and 52 also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

The examiner also has rejected claim 48, 6, and 50 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). But these rejections too are based on the Bodeep reference. Since the Bodeep reference fails to even suggest the retransmission over feeder lines, the rejection fails and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, applicant respectfully requests that the corrected drawings be substituted for those originally filed with the application. Applicant further urges that the remaining claims be reconsidered and allowed and that the application be allowed and passed to issue.



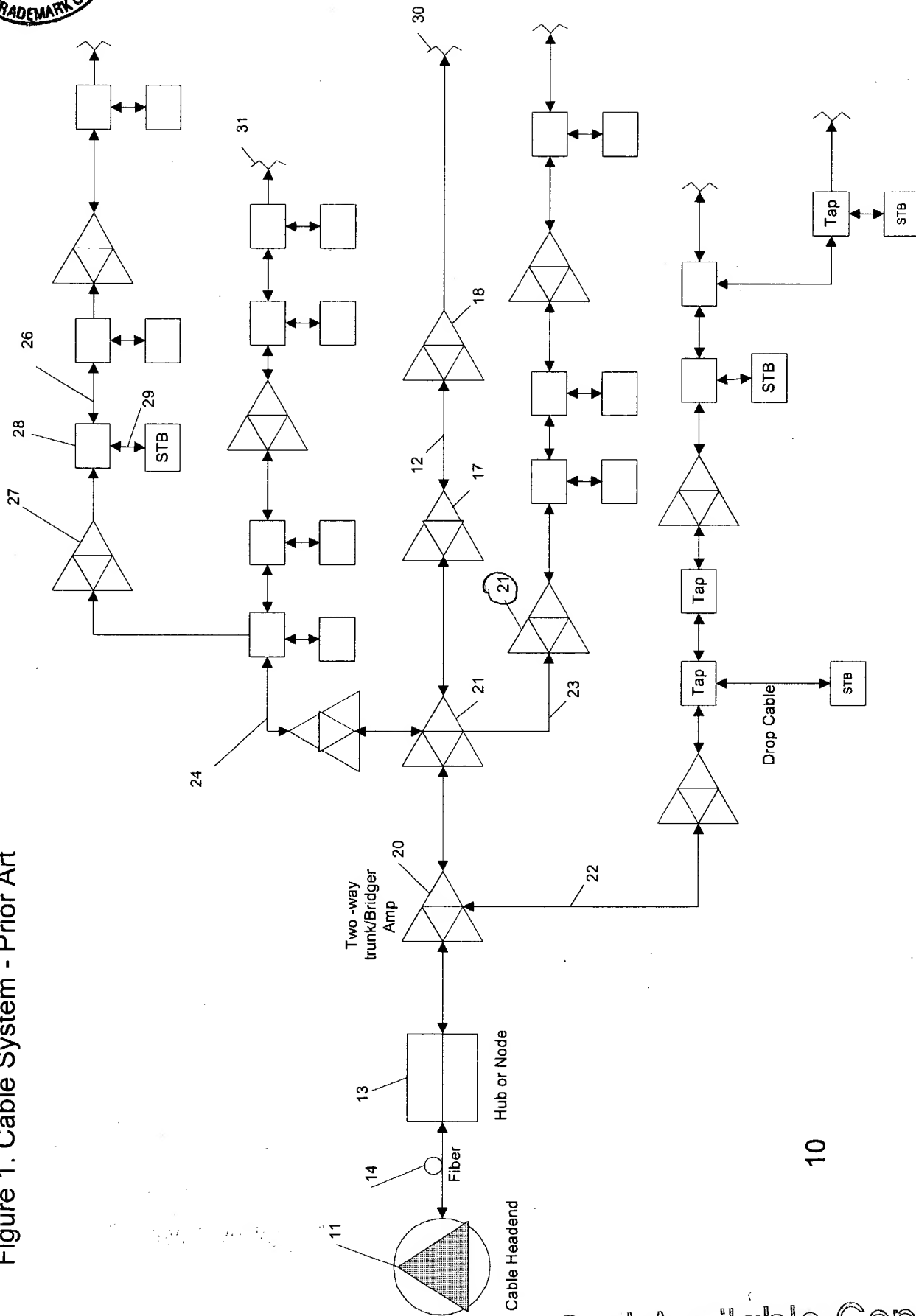
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MARKED UP



Figure 1. Cable System - Prior Art



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MARKED UP -

**Figure 4.**

